

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, August 29, 2016 9:16 PM
To: HarborComments
Subject: Clean up our toxic river

Dear Administrator Gina McCarthy,

The draft cleanup plan for the Portland Harbor Superfund Site is inadequate and must be revised so that both people and wildlife can enjoy a clean healthy river. The Willamette is home to a range of wildlife including Ospreys, Bald Eagles, Otters, Great Blue Herons, many species of fish and more. Right now, it is not safe for a healthy adult person to eat more than eight ounces of fish per month from the Willamette River Superfund area. For pregnant or nursing women, no amount of resident fish is considered safe. More cleanup means more safety. We need a plan from the EPA that relies less on Monitored Natural Recovery, and focuses on removing contaminated sediment and taking that sediment to an appropriate landfill. We have removed most sewage overflows to the Willamette through the Big Pipe project. Now it is time to clean up the toxic materials in the river.

I am asking you to make the following improvements:

1. EPA should select Alternative G with additional dredging in areas of high human use, areas of high ecological value, and areas where there is high risk of recontamination of the river.
2. EPA should set much clearer timelines and metrics for success including setting an explicit date by which Portland Harbor specific fish consumption advisories will be lifted.
3. EPA should select an alternative that allows all members of our community to eat fish safely from our river, including woman of childbearing age and children.
4. EPA's cleanup plan should include the heavily contaminated uplands as well as the heavily contaminated river.
5. EPA should do a much better job of addressing environmental justice issues, including reviewing and correcting significant deficiencies in its public engagement strategies for future phases of the Superfund process and delineating strategies for ensuring the jobs, economic benefits and other benefits associated with the Superfund process to the local community and particularly to underserved communities that have been impacted by contamination in Portland Harbor.
6. EPA should eliminate the confined disposal facility which would create a permanent toxic waste dump in our river.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

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